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SPECIAL TREATMENTS FOR SPRING STAINS

Among the all too familiar signs of spring are water spots and mud stains on new spring clothes. April raindrops are likely to leave their marks on silk frocks and coat linings while mud splashes may linger on skirts and hose.

Water spots have several causes. The water may dissolve the dressing in the silk fabric and float it out to the dry edge of the spot, leaving a ring. Or the water may shrink the fibers and make the part of the fabric that has been wet look different from the rest. Or the moisture may remove the luster on the fabric which was caused by pressing. Sometimes water spots will disappear if rubbed with a coin or fingernail or even with a piece of cloth, followed with pressing under a damp cloth or slightly dampened tissue paper. If the spot is caused simply by loss of luster, a good pressing may be the only treatment necessary.

Recently manufacturers have developed a new finishing process for silks that makes them resistant to water spots. Such silk is especially useful in coat linings which are difficult to treat for water spots.

As for the stains caused by mud, if the fabric is not washable, sometimes sponging with denatured alcohol is effective. Many times mud contains oil or grease. This may be removed with a grease solvent such as carbon tetrachloride. Occasionally red mud contains iron rust so the stain from it needs the same treatment as that from iron rust. The most familiar is lemon juice and salt applied to the stain.

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